

Decline in Personal Computer Industry

*585. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report of the Scoch Consultancy Services appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' the 8th March, 2001, has projected a gloom impending the PC market in India and PC growth rate dipping below 35 percent in the current year; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to check the declining growth rate of PC industry?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement*Regarding Decline in Personal Computer Industry*

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the PC market in India has been growing at a healthy rate for last few years and it is too early to draw a conclusion about trend.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I have seen the reply. I would only say that this is a rather critical situation. There is depression in the US market and there is also the piling up of software by Taiwan—inventories. It is certainly going to affect the Indian market. My first supplementary is: Does the Minister have any extensive plan to reduce the price of computers so that the common people can buy them?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr Chairman, Sir as far as the PC market in India is concerned, it is not going down. In 1997-98, we had a .8 million market. In 1998-99, it has gone up to one million. In 1999-2000, it has further gone up to 1.4 million.

In the year 1999-2000, it reached 1.4 million; and the projected figure for the year 2000-2001 is 1.9 million. So, it is not true that the PC market is going down. On the contrary, people are purchasing more and more PCs. It is true that, indigenously, we don't produce it. Therefore, the prices are still higher for the common people. The Government can only look at the duty structure so that the prices of computers are reduced to a certain extent. The Government has